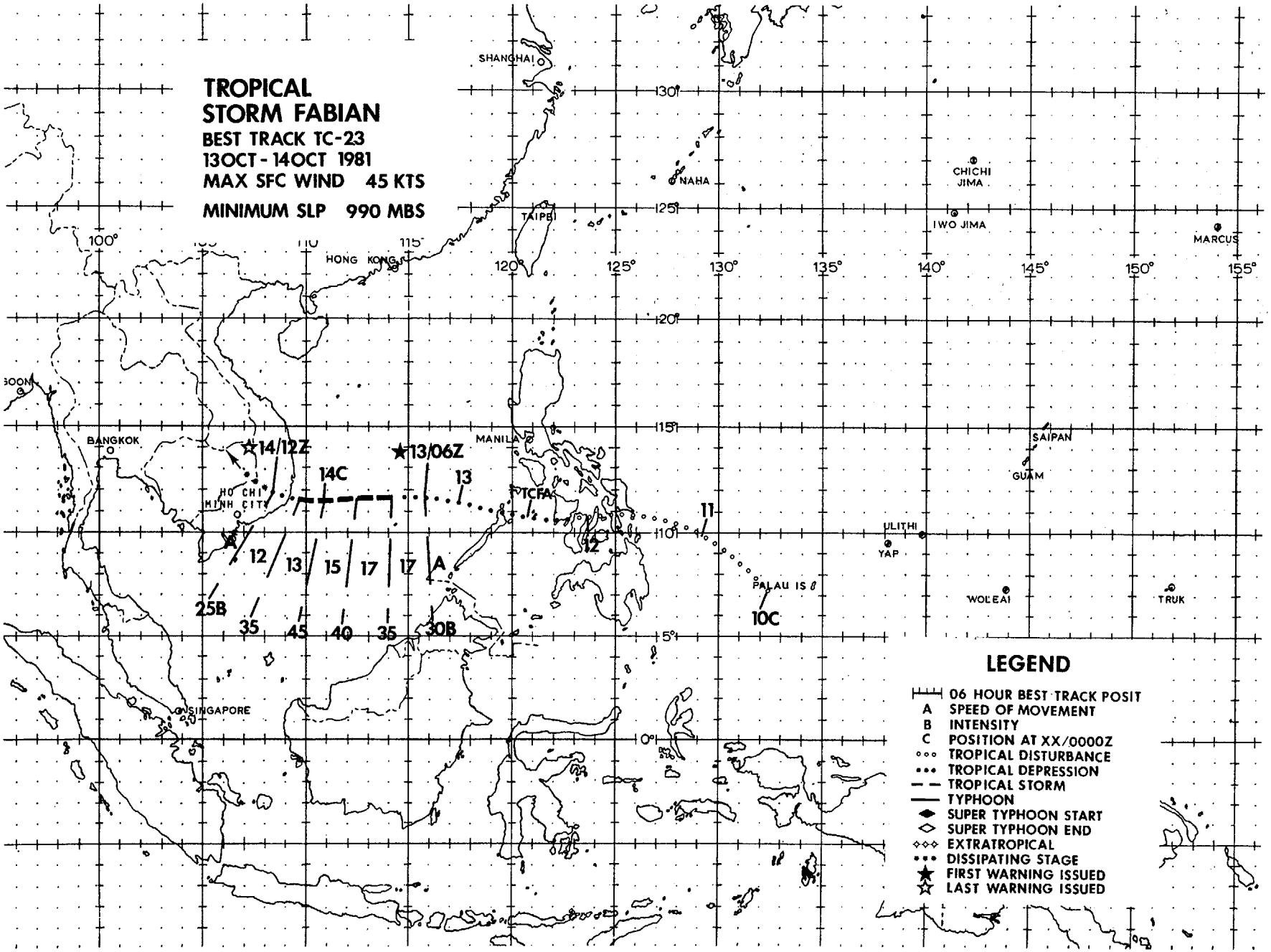
TROPICAL
STORM FABIAN
BEST TRACK TC-23
13OCT - 14OCT 1981
MAX SFC WIND 45 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 990 MBS
SHANGHAI
NAHA
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
CHICHI JIMA
IWO JIMA
MARCUS
BANGKOK
MANILA
SAIPAN
GUAM
HO CHI MINH CITY
14/12Z
13/06Z
14C
13
TCFA
11
12
ULITHI
YAP
PALAU IS
WOLEAI
TRUK
10C
25B
35
45
40
35
30B
SINGAPORE
100°
110°
115°
120°
125°
130°
135°
140°
145°
150°
155°
30°
25°
20°
15°
10°
5°
0°
LEGEND
06 HOUR BEST TRACK POSIT
A SPEED OF MOVEMENT
B INTENSITY
C POSITION AT XX/0000Z
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON
SUPER TYPHOON START
SUPER TYPHOON END
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
FIRST WARNING ISSUED
LAST WARNING ISSUED

On 6 October, satellite imagery indicated an area of active, but unorganized, convection northeast of the Palau Islands. During the 5 days that followed, the convective system moved westward and remained unorganized until just prior to making landfall on Samar Island. As it tracked over Samar, Cebu, Negros and Panay Islands, the disturbance lost much of what little convective organization it did have, however during this period, the affected central Philippine Islands reported torrential rainfall and flooding, although surface reports showed virtually no low-level wind circulation. When the disturbance entered the Sulu and South China Seas, it once again showed signs of reorganizing and at 121100Z, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued.

As it traversed the South China Sea, the disturbance continued to develop although available surface observations showed small pressure falls near the system. Reconnaissance aircraft at 130600Z reported a 1002 mb center pressure and a closed circulation, prompting the first warning for Tropical Depression 23. Subsequent satellite imagery showed continued convective organization and at 131200Z, TD-23 was upgraded to Tropical Storm Fabian. The storm continued to intensify during the next 12 hours, reaching a maximum intensity of 45 kt (23 m/sec) at 140000Z. Figure 3-23-1 shows Fabian while at maximum intensity and 9 hours prior to making landfall just south of Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. As Fabian moved into Vietnam, surface winds weakened rapidly and by 15 October, the system could no longer be detected from synoptic reports or on satellite imagery.

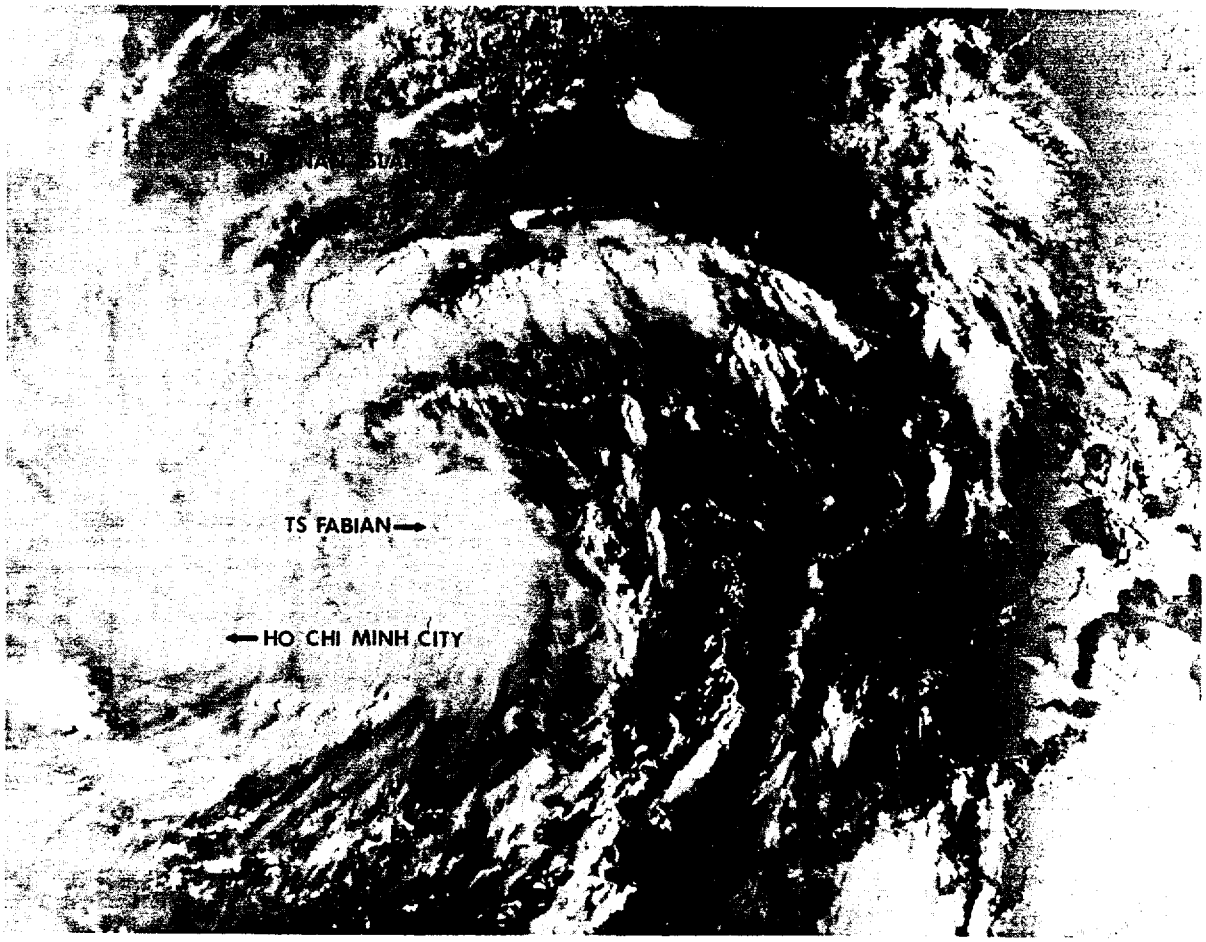

Figure 3-23-1. Four days after initial detection, Tropical Storm Fabian is located 100 nm (185 km) east of Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, at a peak intensity of 45 kt (23 m/sec) on this 140005Z December satellite image. (NOAA 6 visual imagery)